What is claimed is:

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- 1. A nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a secreted fusion protein comprising:
 - (i) a signal peptide that directs secretion of the fusion protein from a host cell;
 - (ii) a soluble form of human semicarbazide-sensitive amine oxidase (SSAO);
 - (iii) a fusion partner that enables dimerization of the soluble form of human SSAO; and
- (iv) a protease cleavage site located between the soluble form of human SSAO and the fusion partner.
- 2. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the soluble form of human SSAO comprises amino acids 29 to 763 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof.
- 3. The nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the fusion protein has benzylamine oxidase activity.
- 4. The nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the soluble form of human SSAO comprises amino acids 29 to 763 of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 5. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the fusion protein lacks the membrane spanning portion of human SSAO.
- 6. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the fusion protein lacks amino acids 6 to 26 of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 7. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the fusion partner is fused to the N-terminal portion of the soluble form of human SSAO.
 - 8. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the fusion partner is glutathione S-transferase or a functionally equivalent variant thereof.

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- 9. The nucleic acid according to claim 8, wherein the fusion partner is a variant of *Schistosoma japonicum* glutathione S-transferase, the variant having at least one of the cysteine residues in positions 85, 138, and 178 replaced by another amino acid residue.
- 5 10. The nucleic acid according to claim 8, wherein the fusion partner comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:5.
 - 11. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the signal peptide is a mouse IgG1 heavy chain signal peptide.
 - 12. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the protease cleavage site is a 3C protease cleavage site.
 - 13. nucleic acid according to claim 12, wherein the 3C protease cleavage site comprises the amino acid sequence EALFQG (SEQ ID NO:6).
 - 14. The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein the fusion protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20.
 - 15. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
 - 16. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.
 - 17. A method for the purification of a recombinant human SSAO, the method comprising:
 - (i) transfecting a cell with the expression vector according to claim 15;
 - (ii) culturing the cell in a culture medium and under conditions wherein the fusion protein encoded by the expression vector is secreted into the culture medium;
 - (iii) binding the secreted fusion protein to a ligand having affinity for the fusion partner;
 - (iv) separating the fusion partner and the soluble form of human SSAO; and
- 30 (v) recovering the soluble form of human SSAO.

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- 18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the ligand having affinity for the fusion partner is glutathione or a derivative thereof.
- 19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the fusion partner is separated from thesoluble form of human SSAO by protease cleavage.
 - 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the protease is a picornavirus 3C-protease.
 - 21. The method according to claim 26, wherein the protease is rhinovirus 3C-protease.
 - 22. The method according to claim 19, wherein the protease is fused to a fusion partner resulting in a fusion protease.
 - 23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the fusion protease is separated from the soluble form of human SSAO by a process comprising binding the fusion protease to a ligand having affinity for the fusion protease.
 - 24. A method for the preparation of an immobilized recombinant human SSAO, the method comprising:
 - (i) transfecting a cell with the expression vector according to claim 15;
 - (ii) culturing the cell in a culture medium and under conditions wherein the fusion protein encoded by the expression vector is secreted into the culture medium; and
 - (iii) binding the secreted fusion protein to a ligand having affinity for the fusion partner to thereby immobilize the fusion protein.
 - 25. A fusion protein encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.
 - 26. The fusion protein of claim 25, wherein the fusion protein is immobilized on a ligand having affinity for the fusion partner.